



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge Sentences Southeast Mother to 120 Years of Incarceration for Child Abuse and the Murders of her Four Daughters

Washington, D.C. - Banita Jacks, 34, of 4249 6th Street, SE, Washington, D.C., was sentenced today by the Honorable Frederick Weisberg, Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, to a total of 120 years in prison on three counts of First Degree Premeditated Murder of her three daughters, 11-year-old Tatianna Jacks, 6-year-old N’Kiah Jacks and 5-year-old Aja Jacks; four counts of First Degree Child Abuse of each of her four daughters, including sixteen-year-old Brittany Jacks; and on four counts of felony murder based upon her role in the cruelty to children counts, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing Phillips.

Jacks was found guilty of the charges in July 2009, when Judge Weisberg found that the defendant intentionally maltreated and tortured her daughters, that she was consciously aware of the risk that she caused to each girl, and that she intentionally and recklessly caused each child grave injury and death. Judge Weisberg found that the defendant did nothing to seek benefits for the children, failed to seek financial or other support for the children, isolated the children from others, and stopped feeding the children so that they would die. With respect to Brittany Jacks, Judge Weisberg found that the defendant tortured her both emotionally and physically. Judge Weisberg noted that the remains of the children were too decomposed to permit experts to determine precisely how each child died, but found that this was due solely to the defendant’s actions, and reflected her consciousness of guilt.

In announcing his sentence today, Judge Weisberg found that consecutive sentences of 30 years per murder were appropriate because the lives of four children were taken.

Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips stated that this prosecution represents this Office’s commitment to the protection of the most vulnerable in our community, our children. The United States Attorney commended the tenacity and perseverance of Major Case/Cold Case Detectives Mitchell Credle, Darryl Richmond, Jeffrey Williams and Special Victim’s Unit Detective Carlos Hilliard for working diligently and deliberately in investigating this case and in securing vital admissions during their interrogation of the defendant. He also commended the

work of MPD Officers James Holder, John Holder, George Klein, Grant Greenwalt and Tina Ramadan of the Mobile Crime Unit; and United States Marshals Kevin Ruark and Nicholas Garrett, who discovered the bodies; Paralegals Alesha Matthews and Richard Cheatham, Thomas (Ron) Royal and Dontrell Smith of the Litigation Support Services Unit, and Victim Advocate Marcia Rinker and LeJune Thames and David Foster of the Witness Assistance Unit. Finally, Mr. Phillips further commended the outstanding support of Intern Erin Pulice and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Michelle D. Jackson for prosecuting this case.

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